



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ANTIQUE SCALE COLLECTORS

Chairman's Newsletter

Number 39. July, 1988.

EQM STILL TO BEAR CRAWFORTH MANTLE.

Over the years, EQM, including the enclosed issue, has been edited by Michael Crawforth, with Diana Crawforth acting as associate editor. For the future, your officers have extended an offer to Diana to assume the post of editor, and she has accepted. So, starting with the October issue, Diana's new title will appear on the inside cover masthead. She tells us her son, Andrew (a most knowledgeable young man when it comes to scale lore), is already pitching in to help, and we're confident the Crawforth mother-and-son team will produce a first-rate publication.

ELECTION TIME IS HERE AGAIN.

Time really does seem to fly, as we get ready to elect directors for the three-year term starting January 1, 1989. In order to retain the services Diana Crawforth has provided ISASC over the years, it seemed only fitting to the nominating committee that Diana be slated as a new director, and so she has been. (Also, as Diana already has assumed considerable of her late husband's ISASC responsibilities, in accordance with our bylaws the directors have elected her to serve as interim director and vice president for the balance of 1988.) Further, with Doug Dallimer resigning as a Euro-Chapter director as of the end

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of this year, your nominating committee has put forth Albert Rangeley of Harrogate, England, as a replacement. Albert, from all we're told, actively participates in the Euro-Chapter's goings-on and deserves the recognition that a directorship confers.

BOSTON WAS A BLAST!

Our early May convention was an absolute bell-ringer. Steven and Riva-Jill Ginsberg did a superb job as co-chairpersons, ably assisted by their committee comprising Gary and Mary Basch, George and Dorothy Mallis, Roger and Kim Wood, Bill Lindeyer and Bruce Wadleigh. We can't be too effusive with our thanks to Steve, Riva-Jill, and the others. They deserve all the compliments we can shower on them.

The convention program is enclosed, but it only hints at the highlights that kept everyone busy enjoying from early a.m. 'til late evening. Thursday night, early birds sat down to a delicious dinner and a view of the Ginsberg collection (a great one) at the Ginsberg domicile. Friday morning was taken up with a "backstage" visit to Harvard's Science Center to see some historical scientific instruments, including some rare scales. On Friday afternoon, having nothing to do with scales but a great treat nevertheless, members visited the Ramesses Exhibit and the Omnimax Theatre at the Boston Museum of Science. Each experience was quite fascinating.

Friday night the conclave got underway officially, and practically every member registrant and spouse (about 90, in all) proceeded to get acquainted and reacquainted. Saturday morning everyone toured Boston by bus, finishing up with lunch at the famed Cherrystones Restaurant overlooking Boston Harbor. Saturday afternoon combined a display of scales owned by local members and the silent auction, the former most interesting, the latter a resounding success, with \$12,000 worth of scales, weights and metrology ephemera changing hands (and ISASC benefitting to the tune of more than \$1,000 in sponsor commissions). Saturday night's gala banquet was indeed gala, with the highlight being the conferring of Honorary Life Member status upon Diana Crawford and duly acknowledging it with a plaque and a star named in her honor. Festivities included an original song, written and sung by "The Three Ruths" (Weiss, Olson and Lenorovitz) which we herewith record, sans music:

We came to ISASC to tell the truth;
 You see before you the ruthless Ruths.
 Our husbands all collect their scales,
 While we dash off to the stores for sales.
 We traveled here from far and wide;
 We saw Boston town with a splendid guide.
 Our Joe and Lew and Irv and Charlie,*
 Don't care that we can't sing par-tic-ularly;
 So next year bring your scales and weights
 To San Francisco and its Golden Gate.

* Editor's note: Who's "Charlie?"

Sunday morning saw members attending the metrology seminar, at which Michael and Diana Crawforth and George Mallis spoke on subjects near and dear to the hearts of all in attendance. Finally, after three action-packed days and nights, the 1988 convention ended with a tasty buffet brunch, with farewells interspersed with promises to "see you in San Francisco."

AND SAN FRANCISCO IT IS.

It's called "Everybody's Favorite City," and with good reason. ISASC's first convention in 1979 was there, and with fond memories persisting, the prospect of returning in 1989 seemed to suit everyone to a tee. The date is April 28-30, so mark your calendar now. Our co-chairmen are Dale Reed and Bill Doniger, and through the influence of Madeline Goodwin (spouse of member Eugene Goodwin), we're booked into the Sir Francis Drake, one of San Francisco's nicest hotels, at a very attractive rate. Thank you, Madeline, for so adroitly "pulling strings."

A SPECIAL MEMORY.

In retrospect, one of the most pleasant weeks we ever were privileged to spend was the week prior to the Boston convention when Michael and Diana Crawforth visited Chicago and the Steins. They had the busiest time one could imagine, and couldn't have been happier doing what they do best -- hobnobbing with friends, photographing and cataloging scales,

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and even finding time for sightseeing. During that week they spent a day with Tod and Doris Carley, another with Rod and Madge Webster, and on Sunday were guests of honor at an open house at the Steins. In attendance on that festive occasion were the Crawforths and Steins, Utz and Shirley Schmidt (driving in from Detroit, no less), the Carleys, the Websters, Ben Shayman, and other collector-friends of the Steins.

LIBRARY UPDATE.

At the Boston convention, a sampling of our library offerings was displayed and orders taken. The result: sales of almost \$1,200, for everything from books and catalogs to back issues of EQM to EQM binders to everything else we offer. Once again, the value of these materials to our members was demonstrated, and to keep a good thing going, we're enclosing our latest library listing. Note, if you will, a couple of new and most novel offerings: the painting titled, "The Wardmote Inquest," and the decorative art tile. Each is well worth acquiring and displaying.

AN OFFER TOO GOOD TO REFUSE.

Member Peter DeCristafaro came to the Boston convention and was so impressed with all that ISASC is doing (and could be doing more of if funds were available) that he proposed a new idea for next year's convention; namely, that the silent auction include scales contributed by members, the proceeds of which would go to ISASC. Most importantly, to get the idea underway, Peter volunteered to contribute \$2,000 worth of scales, a truly generous gesture. It's a most enterprising thought, and your officers will be considering the practicality of it; i.e., would other members be interested in contributing one or more scales to raise funds for ISASC? If you have any thoughts on the subject, please let us hear from you.

COLLECTORS' LIFELINE.

As any collector of scales (or whatever) will tell you, maintaining records is essential to the joy of collecting -- when and where you bought an item, how much it cost, its appraisal value, a photograph of it, and of course, all the data about it -- size and specifications, country of origin, historical information, manufacturer, etc.

A ready helpmate for this very purpose has recently come to our attention. Titled "The Collectors Organizer," it's a handsome, hard-bound, vinyl-covered, three-ring portfolio measuring 10-1/4" x 11-1/2." Index tabs divide it into eight sections covering numerous aspects of collecting, to wit: Description and History, Photographs, Inventory, Collection Highlights, Value Record, Purchase Planner, Dealers and Suppliers, and References. The Organizer comprises more than 50 pages plus magazine pockets and page protectors, and sells for \$15, plus \$2.75 handling and shipping. To order one, write or call Collector Suppliers Co., Dept. EQ, Box 5746, Glendale, AZ 85312-5746; phone 602/938-5702. If, upon examination, it doesn't satisfy your needs, you may return it within 10 days (postage prepaid) for a refund of your \$15.

MISCELLANY.

- ** Diana Crawford writes to ask us to pass on two requests of members: One, if you have any photographs of Michael Crawford, please, if at all possible, send duplicates to her, as presently she has so very few; Two, if, perchance, you had lent something to Michael (scales, weights, articles, pictures, old adverts, anything at all), please let Diana know and she will endeavor to locate and return the item(s). (But please be patient, as she has much to do during these days of adjustment to a new life.)
- ** At Boston, your officers not only got underway with plans for ISASC's 1989 convention in San Francisco, but agreed on Philadelphia as the site for the 1990 convention. And hardly coming as a surprise, members Emil Cohn and Lew Weiss enthusiastically agreed to serve as convention co-chairmen.
- ** During the Boston convention, member Barry Silverstein saw fit to pen two limericks which we herewith present:

(1) Those English collectors of scales
 Have told us remarkable tales,
 Of scales they have found
 While touring around,
 In the bourses of Devon and Wales.

(2) While here at the Boston convention,
 Bob Stein was oft heard to mention,
 collecting metrological
 is purely psychological,
 So be careful if you're on a pension.

- ** Eileen and Ray Park of Noranda, Australia, wrote us in early June to tell us their son, David, has become engaged to a Chicago girl (now there's a long-distance romance). Aside from that good news, they report that they're on their way back to Java in mid-November, continuing their quest for scales. Their collection now numbers 971, and, as they put it, is "still rising."
- ** Our thanks to member Irving Olson who, last April, sent us \$100 to help defray our convention costs. Such generosity is always appreciated.
- ** Apropos our Boston convention, member Chuck Lamlein submitted an article and photos describing the convention goings-on to The Collector, an Illinois antiques journal, which forthrightly ran it. Enclosed is Chuck's article, intact except for the photos which didn't lend themselves to reproduction. Nice going, Chuck!
- ** This past spring, our Boston convention was publicized in Antique Week, prompting Everel O'Donnell of O'Donnell's Antiques of Logansport, Indiana, to send us a list of scales for sale. They seem to be quite diverse in type and manufacture, so in the event you're interested, please deal directly with Mr. O'Donnell, whose phone number is 219/753-8327.

AND IN CLOSING...

You'll be pleased to know that membership is at an all-time high. Supplement #1 to the '88 Membership Directory is enclosed, bringing the current count of our North American Chapter to 225. All in all, the state of our health is excellent and ISASC's future does, indeed, look bright.

Faternally,

